minimum balance requirement in operative accounts. Some banks have recently revised the minimum balance to be maintained in such accounts. Higher minimum balance has been stipulated by banks in the case of cheque operative saving accounts. Those who cannot afford maintaining the minimum balance at such higher level can opt to have the account without cheque facility where modest minimum balance is required to be maintained. The minimum balance in savings bank account is prescribed by individual banks after taking into account cost of servicing such accounts, etc.

Evasion of Excise Duty by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited

7737. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case was registered against M/S Maruti Udyog Limited for Central excise duty evasion amounting to crores of rupees by the Directorate-General of Anti-Evasion during the year 1993;

(b) whether a huge contingent of officers were drawn from Delhi Central Excise Collectorate, who visited the premises for a number of days for verification of documents;

(c) whether attendance was maintained daily by these officers;

(d) whether during the sanction of rewards, more names of officers not associated remotely in the case were also recorded; and

(e) if so, what action is being initiated against the officers so rewarded and against the sanctioning authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In 1993, an investigation was undertaken into the alleged evasion of central excise duty by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited, for which some officers from Delhi Central Excise Collectorate were also included in the team which visited the Company's premises. A record of officers attending to this work has been kept.

(d) As per the Reward Rules, only those officers were considered for reward who palyed an active role either in the investigations in the premises of M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited or in regard to follow up action, including subsequent scrutiny and analysis of documents etc.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Recruitment in Oriental Bank of Commerce

7738. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent recruitment in Group D posts in Oriental Bank of Commerce in its Zonal Office, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, OBC candidates who have produced valid certificates duly countersigned by the concerned District Magistrate/Duputy Commissioner at the time of interviews, have been ignored and other candidates who have produced invalid certificates of OBC have been included in the zone of consideration;

(b) if the reply to part (a) be in the negative, the names of those candidates who have produced valid certificates duly counter-signed by the concerned District Authorities at the time of interviews and whose names have been included in the zone of consideration; and

(c) the action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) Oriental Bank of Commerce has reported that the Employment Exchange had sponsored to that Bank amongst others, a panel of 11 Other Backward Classes (OBCs) names for recruitment to the post of peon in its subordinate cader. All such candidates were called for interview. The bank has further re-